

Northwest Arkansas Community College

Division of Health Professions
Physical Therapy Assistant Program

Discipline Code

PHTA

Course Number

2222

Course Title

Documentation and Communication

Catalog Description

This course will address issues related to documentation and communication in physical therapy and instruction in commonly used types of physical therapy documentation and styles of communication.

Prerequisites

Admission in to the PTA Program

Credit hours

2

Target Audience

Students admitted to the PTA Program

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Recognize the impact of verbal and non-verbal communication and ability to assess if the patient and/or caregiver, Physical Therapist, and other health care professionals understood instructions and/or communication presented.
2. Discuss the impact of individual and cultural differences on verbal and non-verbal communication and treatment approach with patients, caregivers, Physical Therapist and/or other health care professionals.
3. Demonstrate understanding of the practice act, legal standards and ethics by demonstrating knowledge of the following: guidelines for documentation, phone referrals, informed consent, defining rule of confidentiality, assessing appropriate actions to take if a patient refuses treatment or has a change in functional or cognitive status, differentiating between the legal role of the Physical Therapist and the Physical Therapy Assistant in the initial evaluation, interim notes and discharge summaries, correlating documentation guidelines to the practice act, documenting information in the appropriate section of a SOAP note, listing principles for documenting in a legal record and identifying if legal guidelines were followed, writing notes and discharge summaries that comply with legal guidelines, and identifying the medical record as a legal document.
4. Demonstrate understanding the plan of care developed by the Physical Therapist to achieve short and long term goals by: correlating Physical Therapy goals to the treatment sessions,

progressing the treatment outlined in the plan of care within the legal guidelines, performing discharge planning, documenting treatment sessions, comparing a patient's functional ability in a PTA progress note to the initial evaluation and Physical Therapy goals to demonstrate treatment effectiveness, utilizing assessment component of a SOAP note to describe progress or lack of progress toward goals and support information utilizing the subjective and objective data.

5. Utilize visual analog scales or graphs for pain and document information in correct section of a SOAP note, demonstrate knowledge and use of utilizing these questionnaires in Gait Analysis and Training Lab Practical Examinations.
6. Demonstrate awareness of a variety of documentation tools to include: SOAP and IEP.
7. Demonstrate ability to document patient information accurately, logically, concisely, legibly and in a timely manner following guidelines required by the state practice act and other regulatory functions.
8. Identify factors affecting discharge, explain criteria used to determine discharge planning patient needs, and the PTA's role in discharge planning to include communication with the Physical Therapist.
9. Recognize and utilize common medical abbreviations.
10. Demonstrate basic knowledge regarding quality improvement/assurance
11. Given a mock patient scenario and incident report form, demonstrate the ability to accurately complete an incident report.
12. Understand criteria for goal writing for writing professional goals for the Professional Development Plan.

TEACHING METHODS

1. Online Lecture
2. Handouts
3. Small Group Activities
4. Videos
5. Case based Problem Solving Activities
6. Demonstration

GRADING SCALE

A = 93 – 100
B = 85 – 92
C = 77 – 84
D = 69 – 76
F = <69

METHODS OF EVALUATION

Quizzes & Examinations:	55%
Assignments:	20%
Comprehensive Final	25%